WRD/.MG/P.R. 8

21 August 1961

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

CAMBODIA, LAOS, THAILAND AND VIET-NAM

Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations
of the Lower Mekong Basin

Office of the Executive Agent

TO: Mr. Pham-Minh-Duong, Chairman and
Member for Viêt-Nam

Mr. Phlek Chhat
Member for Cambodia

Mr. Oukeo Souvannavong
Member for Laos

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Executive Agent

SUBJECT: Progress Report No. 8, for 5 June/18 August 1961

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* Colombo Plan

1. HIGHLIGHTS

1.1 The eleven-week period under review was one of the most active in Mekong Scheme history. Highlights in chronological order included: the presentation 21 June in Saigon to the Committee member for Viet-Nam of two 52-foot survey vessels constructed in Hong Kong for the Mekong Committee by New Zealand and the United Kingdom under the Colombo Plan; the visit 27 June/ 3 July 1961 of the UNESCO five-man Seismologic Team under the chairmanship of Prof. V.V. Beloussov to mainstream damsites at Pa Mong, Sambor and Tonle Sap, and to Phnom Penh, Vientiane, and Bangkok; the signature 29 June of the United Nations Special Fund Tributaries Project contract with Nippon Koei Kabushiki Kaisha for work on the Upper Se San in Viet-Nam; the completion on 29 June of the estimate of probable maximum flood at Pa Mong and Sambor by Mr. Roger Berthelot, WMO Hydrometeorologist and Hydraulic Engineer; the decision by UNBTAO of 30 June to delegate ECAFE the authority to take the initiative in procurement of the three survey vessels and other equipment necessary for the UN Special Fund Mekong Hydrographic Survey; the visit 2/7 July of the U.S. team under U.S. Commissioner of Reclamation Floyd E. Dominy to Vientiane, Bangkok, and the Pa Mong damsite to launch preparation of the Pa Mong Comprehensive Project Report; the visit 23/29 July of Dr. Gilbert White, Mr. Harold Dunkerley and Mr. Walter Rudlin for preliminary discussions concerning the examination of economic and related fiscal, social and administrative problems to be carried out on behalf of the Mekong Committee in the autumn with Ford Foundation finance by Dr. White, Mr. Egbert de Vries, Mr. H. Dunkerley, and Mr. John Krutilla; the announcement 25 July by Iran of a further grant of petroleum products; the UN Special Fund authorization 27 July to commence operations on the UN Special Fund Mekong Project Hydrographic Survey; the visit 9/15 August of Dr. C.Y. Wu, Chief of the Office for Asia and the Far East in BTAO;and the completion of field work on Nam Pong tributary in Thailand under UN Special Fund Mekong Tributaries Project on 10 August, with the comprehensive project report promised on or in advance of the contract target date of 21 February 1962.

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2. RELATION TO EARLIER REPORTS

2.1 Mekong Scheme developments are recorded partly in the reports of the Committee sessions and partly in the Progress Reports of the Executive Agent. For brevity, information contained in one of these series is in principle not repeated in the other. Thus developments through 2 June 1961 are contained in the Draft Report of the Fourteenth Session (Special), held in Bangkok 31 May - 2 June (WRD/MKG/R.46), and earlier Session Reports and Executive Agent's Progress Reports; while the present Executive Agent's Progress Report No.8 recounts subsequent developments through 18 August 1961.

3. PA MONG MAINSTREAM PROJECT (Approximately 25 kms upstream of Vientiane where river is international boundary between Laos and Thailand)

3.1 U.S. Commissioner of Reclamation, Mr. Floyd E. Dominy, spent 2 to 6 July in Laos and Thailand organizing the first steps to carry out the offer made by the U.S. Government at the Seventeenth Session of ECAFE in March 1961, and accepted by the Mekong Committee, to prepare the comprehensive feasibility report for the Pa Mong multi-purpose project. Mr. Dominy was assisted during his visit by two associates from Washington: Mr. Leon W. Damours, Chief of the Division of Foreign Activities of the Bureau of Reclamation, and Mr. Carl A. Cramer of the Office of Industrial Operations of the International Cooperation Administration (ICA); by the Mekong Committee members for Laos and Thailand; representatives of the U.S. Embassies and USOM offices in Vientiane and Bangkok; and by the ECAFE Mekong Officer and the Executive Agent. Visits and discussions were held with officials of the two governments including the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister, the National Economic Development Board, the National Energy Authority, and the Department of Irrigation of Thailand; and the Planning Commission and Ministries of Public Works, Agriculture and Finance in Laos. Aerial inspection was made of the damsite, reservoir, and a portion of the irrigable areas in the Vientiane Plain and in North-East Thailand; and the damsite was visited by boat. The comprehensive project report prepared by the U.S. will contain full economic as well as engineering details. It was decided that as a next step a team of U.S. Bureau of Reclamation planning

/engineers

engineers will visit the entire project area commencing approximately 1 October 1961. They will then prepare a proposed plan of operation outlining in detail the subsequent phases of the work of preparing the full report.

3.2 Mr. Dominy emphasized to the Committee, U.S. and U.N. officials with whom he spoke the very large size of the proposed Pa Mong project. He said that building the Pa Mong dam would be comparable to damming the Mississippi at St Louis; he noted that the Pa Mong reservoir, which it is estimated will contain 78 million acre feet, will be more than 2½ times larger than the largest man-made reservoir constructed todate in the world, namely Lake Meade, behind the Boulder Dam on the Colorado river in the U.S., containing some 30 million acre feet; he pointed out that while it has taken some seven or eight years to fill Lake Meade, the Pa Mong reservoir would fill each year; and he further noted that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, since its establishment in 1902, has designed, constructed and now operates more than 2,000 dams which command a total of some 8 million acres (3.2 million hectares) of irrigable land, while the Pa Mong dam alone will command more than ¼ of this, i.e. about 2.5 million acres (1 million hectares). Mr. Dominy emphasized that a great deal of intensive engineering and economic investigations will be necessary. As to the practical possibility of constructing such a vast undertaking, Mr. Dominy stated in a "Voice of America" interview on 12 July, "It is quite recognizable from the data already accumulated, and from the personal visits which I have made during these two days by air and by boat to the proposed reservoir site, and having flown over both in Laos and in Thailand the areas possible for irrigation, that this project does have tremendous potential". Mr. Dominy felt that perhaps as much as 25 years may be required to bring all the potentially irrigable land under actual irrigation; but asked at the same "Voice of America" interview how long it will take to complete the project, he said that "Speaking for the Pa Mong Dam unit, if investigations prove feasible and financing is available so that construction could get underway, the construction of the dam itself and the power plant would take from between six and eight years."

3.3 For the purpose of the visit of Commissioner Dominy and his colleagues,

/the ECAFE

the ECAFE Bureau of Flood Control and Water Resources Development prepared a document, "Brief Description of the Pa Mong Project" (WRD/MKG/INF/R.61), which has been separately circulated. Commissioner Dominy and his colleagues repeatedly noted the extent to which a large number of participants are involved in the Pa Mong Project, including not only Laos and Thailand, but Australia, which has agreed to undertake the geologic investigations including boring at the damsite; Canada, which is preparing aerial maps of the entire river and has already photographed and mapped the damsite; France, which has contributed hydrologic and meteorologic equipment being used in data collection, and has conducted the soil survey of some of the irrigable areas; India, whose contribution of rain gauges are being used in Pa Mong project data collection; Iran, whose petroleum products have been used for more than a year by the other data collection programmes including the Canadian airplanes; Japan, whose tributaries reconnaissance has as a by-product afforded considerable additional mainstream and Pa Mong Project data; New Zealand, jet watercraft of which have been in use for over a year in data collection; the Philippines, which has offered to do some of the topography; the United Kingdom hydrologic and meteorologic equipment some of which are in use in Pa Mong data collection; the United States hydrology project now beginning its third and final year; UNECAFE, which has for a decade provided basic study and assistance; UNBTAO, which is financing a number of studies and the work of the Wheeler Mission and the Advisory Board; ILO, which has conducted a preliminary manpower survey; FAO, which has made a preliminary agricultural survey, and a survey of losses from forest and grassland fires; UNESCO, which has made a seismologic investigation; WHO, which has conducted a basin-wide schistosomiasis investigation and an intensive schistosomiasis study in the Vientiane Plain; WMO, which has provided expert personnel, one of whom has recently completed the estimate of maximum flood at Pa Mong; the UN Special Fund, the results of whose mineral survey in North-East Thailand and Laos will bear directly upon the economics of the Pa Mong Project; and the Ford Foundation, which is undertaking on behalf of the Committee an enquiry into basic economic and related fiscal, social and administrative questions throughout the basin, very much including the Pa Mong Project.

3.4 On 29 June/2 July three members of the UNESCO seismologic team visited Pa Mong and afterward presented an informal report and recommendation to the Executive Agent. At the end of the period under review a formal report with recommendations was awaited from UNESCO.

3.5 On 29 June Mr. R. Berthelot, WMO Hydrometeorologist and Hydraulic Engineer, completed an estimate of maximum flood at Pa Mong. This is set forth in document WRD/MKG/INF/R.60. Rev.1. Mr. Berthelot's estimate is:

Hundred-year flood = 22,940 cu.m. per second
Thousand-year flood = 26,090 cu.m. per second.

4. SAMBOR PROJECT (Upstream of Kratie in Cambodia)

4.1 The Australian Snowy Mountains Colombo Plan Mekong Geologic Team, having suspended field work as planned at Sambor during the rainy season, were at work in Australia on their "Stage I Report", which they hoped to submit to the Committee soon. As proposed by the Australian team and agreed by the Committee at its Fourteenth Session (Special), the Australian work during the coming and concluding dry season will extend and intensify the investigation at Sambor on the principle that a somewhat higher dam than the one previously envisaged will be constructed there, and the team will not perform any work at Stung Treng.

4.2 The representative of the Japanese Government in Bangkok conferred with the Executive Agent concerning the proposed Plan of Operation for the Japanese preliminary investigation at Sambor; and it was expected that the Japanese Government would submit a redraft of the proposed Plan of Operation in the near future.

4.3 Mr. R. Berthelot, WMO Hydrometeorologist and Hydraulic Engineer, also completed on 29 June a preliminary estimate of maximum flood at Sambor, which he calculated at 61,500 to 67,800 cu.m. per second = Hundred-year flood; and 70,000 to 77,200 cu.m. per second = Thousand-year flood. This estimate is also contained in document WRD/MKG/INF/R.60 Rev.1.

5. TONLE SAP PROJECT

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5.1 Towards the end of the period under review the Embassy of India in Phnom Penh transmitted on behalf of the Government of India to the Executive Agent a slightly amended proposed Plan of Operation for the work which India will undertake through its Colombo Plan to execute for the Committee. The new draft closely follows the draft discussed at the Fourteenth Session (Special) of the Committee. At the end of the period under review it was being examined whithin ECAFE and the Office of the Executive Agent; the Government of India also put forward a candidate as Project Field Manager.

5.2 Meanwhile the Government of New Zealand indicated that it was ready to make available through the Colombo Plan the $45,000 equivalent which it had promised for this project; and indicated that it was prepared to sign the memorandum of understanding with a few minor amendments included as Appendix C in the draft Plan of Operation.

6. BATTAMBANG UN SPECIAL FUND TRIBUTARY PROJECT IN CAMBODIA

6.1 Under the UN Special Fund Tributaries Project, SOGREAH, the engineering firm selected, encountered exceedingly bad weather conditions but nevertheless managed to make reasonably good progress. All personnel had been mobilised by the end of May; and by the end of June about 35 per cent of the work of data collection in the field had been completed, which was slightly ahead of schedule. SOGREAH hoped to be able to complete the first phase of its work as scheduled by March 1962, at which time the Mekong Committee and in particular the member for Cambodia, would be able to make the definite selection of the project site so that the second phase of the work could be begun.

6.2 At the end of the period under review the member for Cambodia in the Mekong Committee was still reviewing the proposed Memorandum Agreement with FAO concerning the work of preparing the plan for the irrigation, experimental and demonstration project within the irrigable area in the Battambang undertaking.

7. NAM NGUM UN SPECIAL FUND TRIBUTARY PROJECT IN LAOS

7.1 Nippon Koei K.K., the engineering firm preparing the Nam Ngum comprehensive project report under the UN Special Fund Mekong Tributaries Project, were hampered during the period under review by the continuation of special

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operating problems. By the end of July, only approximately 15 per cent of the work had been completed as compared with the target 31 per cent. Nevertheless, soil testing and hydrologic investigations were carried on along the roadside of the major trunk road and around the Nong That Luang; eight benchmarks were established and seven additional staff gauges were installed in addition to the three existing gauges; and water stage and run-off measurements were made. Ground water level observations were carried out by using the wells in the north-eastern part of Vientiane, while soils near Nong That Luang and Ban Nong Nieng were used for fertility analysis. The Nippon Koei office in Tokyo commenced preliminary study on the diversion weir to be constructed at Tha Ngon on the Nam Ngum, and the pumping scheme to be installed on the bank of the Mekong near Vientiane to make the combined irrigation plan of these two schemes.

7.2 Italconsult, the engineering firm selected to design, construct and operate the Vientiane Plain irrigation, experimental and demonstration project under the FAO sub-contract as part of the UN Special Fund Mekong Tributaries Project, continued to make good progress during the period under review, completing in very full detail the design for the first half of the undertaking. The land on which the project was to be constructed had not been placed at the disposal of the Italconsult for actual construction to commence at the end of the period under review, but it was anticipated that this would be done in the near future.

7.3 The Western Pacific Regional Office of WHO sent Dr. M. Zaville, epidemiologist, and Mr. Benjamin Santos, Malacologist, to Laos for the period 14 June - 8 July to conduct an intensive inspection of the area to be developed in the Vientiane Plain Project, hopefully to find it free of the snails responsible for transmission of Bilharziasis. At the end of the period under review the WHO report was eagerly awaited.

8. NAM PONG UN SPECIAL FUND TRIBUTARY PROJECT IN THAILAND

8.1 Rogers International Corporation, the engineering firm in charge of preparing the comprehensive project report on the Nam Pong under the UN Special Fund Mekong Tributaries Project, completed 10 August the field work on this

/undertaking

undertaking, and the Resident Engineer left Thailand at that time. It is anticipated that the comprehensive project report will be ready on, and probably well in advance of, the contract target date of 21 February 1962.

8.2 Meanwhile the National Economic Development Board of Thailand proposed and the Thai Cabinet formally decided to accord highest priority to this project, which forms a vital part of Thailand's North-East development programme. Supplementary discussions are taking place with various possible sources of finance; in these discussions the UN Special Fund preliminary reports prepared by Rogers International Corporation are proving to be of great value, and the final report is eagerly awaited.

8.3 With reference to the irrigation, experimental and demonstration farm to be designed in Thailand as part of the UN Special Fund Tributaries Project, the FAO Regional Office in Bangkok on 9 August informed the Thai authorities that it wished to propose Italconsult as the engineering firm for the work, and simultaneously proposed the candidatures of an irrigation engineer, an agriculturist and a survey engineer. At the end of the period under review, the approval of the Thai authorities of the three candidates was awaited.

9. UN SPECIAL FUND TRIBUTARY PROJECT ON UPPER SE SAN IN VIET-NAM

9.1 On 29 June the United Nations contract with Nippon Koei K.K. for the preparation of comprehensive project report was signed.

10. PREK THNOT TRIBUTARY IN CAMBODIA

10.1 The Japanese authorities continued to work on the proposed Plan of Operation which they planned to submit for their proposed work on the design of the dam and power installation on this tributary, as part of the Japanese Mekong tributaries reconnaissance programme.

11. NAM PUNG TRIBUTARY ON NAM KHUM IN THAILAND (Sometimes spelled NAM GAM)

11.1 The Japanese authorities in Bangkok discussed with the Executive Agent the Plan of Operation tabled by the Japanese at the Fourteenth Session (Special) of the Committee 31 May/2 June for the work of preparing a comprehensive project report in the form of a loan application as part of the

/Japanese

Japanese Mekong tributaries reconnaissance programme. At the end of the period under review the Japanese were considering further amendments in this Plan of Operation.

12. UPPER SRE POK TRIBUTARY IN VIET-NAM

12.1 The Japanese authorities indicated that they expected to submit in the near future a brief Plan of Operation covering hydrologic work which they offered to undertake including installation of gauges under the Japanese Mekong Tributaries Reconnaissance programme.

13. NAVIGATION IMPROVEMENT

13.1 On 21 June the ISIS and TANGAROA, 52-foot survey vessels constructed for the Mekong Scheme in Hong Kong by the governments of the United Kingdom and New Zealand through the Colombo Plan, were formally presented to Mr. Pham-Minh-Duong, the Chairman of the Mekong Committee and Member for Viêt-Nam, who accepted them on behalf of the Committee and the four governments of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viêt-Nam. The two vessels are to be used in the first instance mainly for the hydrographic survey of the delta along with hydrologic work in the same area. The ISIS is initially in the custody of the Hydrographic Services of Viêt-Nam, and the TANGAROA is initially in the custody of Harza.

13.2 As agreed, the Government of the United Kingdom deposited $9,450 equivalent in the UN Special Fund bank accounts in Phnom Penh, Vientiane, Bangkok and Saigon, to cover the first-half of the Local Operating Costs required by the UN Special Fund under the Special Fund Mekong Hydrographic Survey. The United Kingdom, in making this payment as part of its contribution through the Colombo Plan to the Committee's programme of navigation improvement, expects to make the balance of this payment at the date required by the Special Fund.

13.3 Following these initial deposits to meet Local Operating Costs, the Special Fund on 28 July gave its formal agreement to the commencement of operations.

13.4 During the period under review, Mr. A.L. Van Riet, the Project Manager, visited Phnom Penh, Vientiane and Saigon to assist with the organization of

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the survey, including establishment of offices in Phnom Penh and Vientiane.

13.5 On 30 June UNBTAO cabled its agreement that ECAFE, in collaboration with the Project Manager and the Executive Agent, could initiate procurement of the three survey vessels to be supplied under the UN Special Fund hydrographic survey; the Project Manager assisted the ECAFE Procurement Office in the preparation of proposed tenders incorporating specifications the Project Manager had worked out in March and April. At the end of the period under review these proposals were sent to BTAO in New York City for approval, and for authorization to ECAFE to circulate them appropriately, and the response of New York was urgently awaited.

13.6 Under the UN Special Fund Hydrographic Survey each of the four riparian governments is to provide a counterpart Project Manager as the senior person with whom Mr. Van Riet is to work. On 17 June a communication was received from the Committee member for Viêt-Nam indicating that Mr. Chu-Ba-Tuong, Chief of the Hydrographic Services of Viêt-Nam, had been appointed as Counterpart Manager. On 16 August the Thai Member of the Committee indicated that the Thai Government had now appointed its Counterpart Manager, Commander Viratana Sarindu, R.T.N., of the Thai Naval Hydrographic Services.

13.7 The Committee will recall that, in agreement with it, the U.S. Government is to concentrate its hydrographic work in the delta, in collaboration with the Government of Viêt-Nam (with the UN Special Fund Project to be concentrated in the river upstream of the Viêt-Nam border, in collaboration with the governments of Laos and Thailand). The U.S. work in the delta is to be done as part of the three-year American effort being carried out by Harza Company International. Harza is in turn seeking to sub-contract the hydrographic work. During the period under review, the Special Fund Project Manager worked closely with Harza and the U.S. authorities in preparing the work programme for the sub-contract.

13.8 Meanwhile work continued in the United Kingdom in the construction of the navigation aids which are to be made available by the United Kingdom as part of its participation through the Colombo Plan in the Committee's navigation improvement programme (WRD/MKG/INF/R.38/Rev.1, 9 May 1960).

14. HYDROLOGY

14.1 The U.S. hydrologic programme being carried out by Harza Company International, now entering its third and final year, continued to make good progress. At the end of July the overall programme was estimated to be 72.4 per cent complete, as against the target of 79.5 per cent, with most of the shortfall resulting from special operating problems. During July 150 river discharge measurements were made and 89 sediment samples were taken. On 24 July, Mr. Milton S. Sachs arrived to serve as Acting Resident Manager during the home leave of Mr. R.W. Revell; and Mr. Orville Mussey arrived to serve as Chief Engineer to succeed the late Mr. Roger D. Anderson. The programme for the final year of Harza work to end May 1962 had been submitted to ICA Washington at the end of May; during the period under review it was agreed by ICA, subject to Mekong Committee approval; copies of this programme both in English and French were distributed in June.

14.2 The training programme at the Bangkok headquarters of the Harza Company had by end of July comprised 44 lectures on 29 subjects.

14.3 As of 3 July, the Luang Prabang office was turned over to the Laos member of the Committee, with the Harza Hydraulic Engineer formerly in charge transferred to the Harza Bangkok headquarters.

14.4 Plans for the hydrographic survey in the delta were worked out in collaboration with the UN Special Fund Hydrographic Survey Project Manager, and invitations for proposals were sent to several companies considered to be well equipped for the work; the TANGAROA, the 52-foot survey vessel to be used by the sub-contractor, was formally presented to the Mekong Committee by the Governments of New Zealand and the United Kingdom, and placed in Harza custody.

14.5 As reported under paras 3.5 and 4.3 above, an estimate of maximum floods at Pa Mong and Sambor was completed on 29 June by Mr. Roger Berthelot, WMO Hydrometeorologist and Hydraulic Engineer, and circulated in document WRD/MKG/INF/R.60 Rev.1.

14.6 During the week of 17 July, the Executive Agent met with three members of the staff of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA): Mr. Henry B.

/Hansteen

Hansteen, Division of Exchange and Training; Mr. H.L.A. Nyunt, Division of Economic and Technical Assistance; and Mr. John C. Webb, Division of Technical Supplies; and the Acting Regional Representative of the UN Technical Assistance Board in Bangkok; to discuss possible follow-up work by IAEA in the Mekong Project, with reference inter alia to the possible use of isotopes in hydrology and related sedimentation studies. This work might be along the lines recommended in the IAEA Mekong Study conducted in the summer of 1960.

15. MAPPING

15.1 The Canadian mapping programme continued, with many urgent requests from the Australian geologic team; and from SOGREAH, Nippon Koei K.K., and Rogers Engineering Co. International, engineering firms working in the UN Special Fund Tributaries Project. The Canadian authorities were able to meet most of these requests, and continued to expect to be able to deliver all mapping and photographs by 31 December 1961.

16. UN SPECIAL FUND MINERAL SURVEY

16.1 Following discussions participated in by the Acting Chief of the ECAFE Industries Division and Chief of the Mineral Resources Development Section, the Mekong Committee member for Thailand approved toward the end of July the draft Plan of Operation (WRD/MKG/R.44. Rev.1) for the UN Special Fund Minerals Survey. The draft was then submitted to the member of the Committee for Laos who in due course wrote suggesting revisions on a number of points. At the end of the period under review the Acting Chief of the ECAFE Industries Division and Chief of its Minerals Resources Development Section planned to visit Vientiane in order to work out what it was hoped would be a final version of the Plan of Operation. The outstanding differences appeared to be small and it was thus believed that agreement could be reached.

17. ECONOMIC AND RELATED FISCAL, SOCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYSIS

17.1 Early in the period under review, the approval of all four members of the Mekong Committee was received for the appointment by the Ford Foundation of the three persons proposed as associates with Dr. Gilbert White, earlier approved as the mission leader. The three associates are Messrs. Egbert de

/Vries,

Vries, Harold Dunkerley and John Krutilla.

17.2 On 23/29 July Dr. Gilbert White, Mr. Harold Dunkerley and Mr. Walter Rudlin visited Bangkok for preliminary discussions with the ECAFE Mekong Officer and the Executive Agent concerning the inquiries to be made during the autumn on behalf of the Committee into economic and related fiscal, social and administrative questions in the Mekong Scheme. The mission is being financed in response to the Committee's request by the Ford Foundation. The proposed schedule involves assembling of the group in Bangkok Thursday 21 September; visiting Viêt-Nam, Cambodia and Laos for a week each during the ensuing three weeks; meeting with the Mekong Committee in Bangkok 19 October; thereafter a week's examination of problems in Thailand; and with the ensuing final month to be devoted to further examination by individual members of the group of various questions in the four countries. The consultants expect to complete their work in the area towards the end of November, and thereafter to draft their report. It is hoped that Dr. White, perhaps accompanied by a member of the Ford Foundation staff, will meet with the Mekong Committee for several days during its Seventeenth Session, scheduled to be held in Tokyo in conjunction with the Eighteenth Session of ECAFE 6/19 March 1962; he might then present the draft report of the group for detailed discussions with the Committee; the Committee could then decide upon disposition of the report, and also consider further work to be undertaken as recommended in the report, some of this perhaps in further collaboration with the Ford Foundation.

17.3 The Mekong Committee appointed the following as correspondents to the White group:

In Cambodia:	Mr. Peng Ponn Secretary of Cambodian National Committee on the Mekong Ministry of Public Works
In Laos:	Mr. Oukeo Souvannavong, Commissioner for Planning and Member for Laos on the Mekong Committee
In Thailand:	Dr. Thalerng Thamrong-Nawasawat Chief Planning Officer Sector of Agriculture and Cooperatives National Economic Development Board (Other staff members of NEDB have been appointed to assist Dr. Thalerng in his work with the White Mission, in specialized fields.)

/In Viêt-Nam

In Viêt-Nam : Mr. Buu-Hoan
Directeur du Service Etudes
Banque Nationale

Mr. Tu-Ngoc-Dinh
Chargé de Mission

18. SHIFTING CULTIVATION AND RELATED LOSSES FROM FOREST AND GRASSLAND FIRES

18.1 The Committee will recall that at the Committee's request FAO surveyed the annual loss in the Mekong Basin from forest and grassland fires, and presented a report to the Twelfth Session of the Committee (E/CN.11/WRD/MKG/R.36), Saigon 23/27 February 1961, which report indicates that there is an annual direct loss in government revenue of some $20,000,000, without reference to the value of the wood actually destroyed, the prevention of rejuvenation of pine trees, the destruction resulting from soil erosion, and the loss of ground water. The Committee expressed its hope at the Twelfth Session that FAO could prepare a further statement, containing concrete proposals for abating this serious menace, for use by the Committee and the riparian governments. Further to this, the Committee member for Thailand, Dr. Boonrod Binson, engaged in discussions with FAO in Rome in June. Subsequent discussions took place in Bangkok among the Deputy Regional Representative of FAO in Bangkok, the FAO Regional Forestry Officer, and the Executive Agent. At the end of the period under review the Executive Agent was drafting a proposal for submission on behalf of the Committee to the Executive Chairman of the UN Technical Assistance Board seeking a contingency allocation of approximately $12,000 for the purpose of financing a follow-up mission whose task would be to prepare a proposal including small-scale but reasonably long-term demonstrations, which long-range plans might then be submitted for the consideration of the Committee; the forestry, public welfare, resettlement, and other related authorities of the four countries; and a possible source or sources of external assistance to make possible the implementation of such a programme.

19. PUBLIC HEALTH

19.1 The WHO schistosomiasis survey of the Vientiane Plain Project is referred to in para 7.3 above.

19.2 In response to the desire expressed by the Committee at its Twelfth

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Session in Saigon 22-27 February that contact be established with the Anti-Malaria Coordination Board for Burma, Cambodia, Laos, the Federation of Malaya, Thailand and Viêt-Nam, the Regional Director of WHO for the Western Pacific, with headquarters in Manila; and the Regional Director of WHO Regional Office for South East Asia, with headquarters in New Delhi, submitted material to the Executive Agent, which the Executive Agent intended to circulate to the Committee members.

20. SUPPLIES (Petroleum products and Cement)

20.1 The Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of Iran met with the Executive Secretary of ECAFE in Teheran on 25 July and made the exceedingly welcome announcement that the Government of Iran was placing a second year's supply of petroleum products at the disposal of the Mekong Committee.

20.2 Meanwhile Mekong participating programmes utilising Irarian petroleum products were asked, pursuant to the suggestion of the Committee member for Laos, that with effect from 1 August they maintain a daily record sheet for each vehicle, boat, airplane, or engine indicating the use being made of these petroleum products; and to submit these reports at the end of each month to the Office of the Executive Agent. The Office of the Executive Agent already receives and circulates to the Committee a monthly statement from the Shell Co. of deliveries to Mekong participants. It is anticipated that the participants' use records will tally with the totals reported by Shell Co.

20.3 The Government of China invited the Committee to indicate at its Fifteenth Session the disposition it wishes to make of the cement being made available by China.

21. INTERNATIONAL RIVER BASIN MEETING

21.1 The members of the Committee, the ECAFE Mekong Officer and the Executive Agent were invited to participate in the Seminar on the Development and Administration of International River Basins being organized at the Regional Training Centre for UN Fellows at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, 10/17 September.

/22. PERSONNEL

22. PERSONNEL

22.1 During the period under review word was received from various quarters, including the Prime Minister of India, whereby arrangements were completed so that Mr. Kanwar Sain was to join the Office of the Executive Agent as senior engineering consultant to the Mekong Committee about 23/24 September. Mr. Kanwar Sain will bring to the Mekong Scheme and to the four riparian governments his vast background including his five-year term as Chairman of the Central Water and Power Commission of India, his recent work as the Chairman and Administrator of the Rajasathan Canal Project in India, and his past experience in the Mekong Scheme as member of the group of consultants who participated in 1956 in the preparation of the ECAFE basic study of Mekong development possibilities, as a member of the Wheeler Mission in 1957/1958, and since the end of 1958 as a member of the Mekong Committee's Advisory Board. His appointment was warmly welcomed by all concerned.

22.2 At the end of the period under review illness continued to prevent Mr. Trinh-Ngoc-Sanh of Viêt-Nam from taking up his post as associate engineering consultant. All concerned wished him a speedy recovery and looked forward to his early arrival in Bangkok and to the work he would be doing in the four riparian countries, notably in connection with preparation in the four countries to take over operations of the basin-wide hydrologic programme upon the completion of the Harza contract in May 1962.

22.3 Mr. R. Berthelot, WMO Hydrometeorologist and Hydraulic Engineer, left Bangkok for extended home leave 22 July.

22.4 The Executive Agent plans to be absent from the area from 5 September until 2 October, for participation in the International River Basin meeting in Vancouver, Mekong consultations in Japan and New York, and leave. During his absence, Mr. A.L. Van Riet will serve as Acting Executive Agent.

23. MEKONG SCHEME RESOURCES AT 18 AUGUST

23.1 The Mekong Scheme resources position as of 18 August is set forth in ..... document WRD/MKG/INF/R.59/Rev.1 appended below.

WRD/MKG/INF/R.59/Rev.1
18 August 1961
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

CAMBODIA, LAOS, THAILAND AND VIET-NAM

Committee for Coordination of Investigations
of the Lower Mekong Basin

RESOURCES

The total resources contributed or pledged to the Mekong Scheme in approximate U.S. Dollar equivalent as of 18 August 1961 were:

Australia[x/]	Geologic investigation of two mainstream dam sites; work commenced 1960	409,500
Canada[x/]	Aerial survey and mapping; 2 years; work commenced late 1959	1,365,000
China	5,000 tons of cement, to be delivered whenever Committee wishes; plus study trip for Committee and Executive Agent for ten days in Taiwan in October 1960	105,500
France	Hydrologic and meteorologic equipment; soil survey; fisheries and sedimentation investigations on Great Lake of Tonle Sap; planning model reclamation project in delta; work commenced 1959. Mineral survey; bauxite prospection; geological map; to commence 1961	600,000
India[x/]	366 rain gauges; delivery commenced 1960. Preparation of comprehensive project report in the form of loan application for Tonle Sap project; work commenced in 1961	282,000
Iran	Petroleum products required by other programmes; deliveries commenced 1960 (value given is for first two years)	64,000
Israel	1,000 tons of cement; to be delivered whenever Committee wishes; first delivery made in 1961. Also ten scholarships to be distributed among the four riparian countries	53,240
Japan[x/]	Survey of tributaries; two years; work commenced 1959. Several scholarships and experts to train specialists in the various countries. Preliminary survey of Sambor project; to commence in 1961	472,000

/New-Zealand[x/]

x/ Colombo Plan.

New-Zealand x/	Four 24-foot jet boats for hydrologic and hydrographic work, delivered in 1960; one 52-foot survey vessel delivered in 1961. Field and laboratory equipment for preparation of Tonle Sap comprehensive project report	183,000
Philippines x/	Topography of irrigable areas of mainstream damsites	266,667
U.K. x/	Meteorological equipment, delivered in 1960; Navigation improvement; work commenced in 1960; and 52-foot survey vessel delivered in 1961	364,000
United States	Assembly of hydrologic data; establishment of a basin-wide network of hydrologic stations including equipment and training of hydrologists required for permanent hydrologic service in each of the riparian countries; 3 years, work commenced 1959. Hydrographic survey of delta. Preparation of comprehensive project report of Pa Mong project (estimate); work to commence in 1961	4,700,000
UN/ECAFE	Amount included for Mekong project under a separate chapter of overall UN Budget approved by the General Assembly for 1961	61,000
	ECAFE also supplies continuing support and services in fields of Flood Control and Water Resources Development, Transport, Industry and Mineral Resources, and Administration	

Expanded, Regular, and Regional Technical Assistance Programmes of the United Nations, the Specialized Agencies, and the International Atomic Energy Agency, mostly coordinated by the UN Technical Assistance Board

- UN/Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations: Wheeler Mission 1957/58 Expert reports in various fields; Advisory Board; and Office of the Executive Agent 337,799

- International Labour Organization (ILO): Manpower survey; six months; preliminary study completed in 1960 12,104

- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO): General survey of Agriculture, forests and fisheries, completed in February 1959; and estimate of loss from tree burning, completed in 1961 113,930

/United Nations

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x/ Colombo Plan

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO): Preliminary survey of possibility of constructing a hydraulic model of delta, completed in 1960 — 16,000

- World Health Organization (WHO): Investigation of Schistosomiasis; broad survey completed in 1960; intensive survey of Vientiane Plain irrigation from project; to be carried out in 1961 — 3,677

- World Meteorological Organization (WMO): Grundy Mission in 1959; hydrologic and meteorologic consultants' continuing services; commenced in 1959 — 45,300

- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA): Study of possibilities of using isotopes in hydrologic and sedimentation surveys; preliminary study completed in 1960 — 5,650

International Bank: Provides a member of Advisory Board

United Nations Special Fund:

Prepartion of four comprehensive project reports on four tributaries in form of investment loan proposals, and design of irrigation demonstration farms; four years; work commenced in 1960:	1,326,700	
Hydrographic survey for improvement of navigation; work commenced in 1961	328,100	
Minerals survey	422,300	
Delta mathematical model	642,800	2,719,900

Local costs pledged by the riparian countries:

- under Canadian programme	105,000	
- under Indian programme	50,000	
- under U.S. hydrology programme	400,000	
- under UN Special Fund Tributaries Project	454,000	
- under UN Special Fund hydrographic survey for navigation improvement	327,700	
- under UN Special Fund Minerals survey	233,640	
- under UN Special Fund mathematical delta model project	100,000	1,670,340

Grand total as of 19 June 1961 — 13,850,607

In addition, the Ford Foundation has offered to assist the Coordination Committee in its examination of economic and related fiscal, social and administration aspects of the overall Mekong project; the cost of this survey has not yet been estimated. The Pan-Pacific South East Asia Women's Association has offered to participate in social studies concerning the Mekong Project.